Declaring National Highways in Gujarat

3536. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals for declaring of roads as New National Highways in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the roads proposed to be declared as National Highways in the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the time schedule therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to limited allocation made available for National Highways in the 8th Plan, it is difficult at this stage to declare any new National Highways. The matter will, however, be re-examined at the time of mid-term review of the Plan in case allocation for National Highways is increased. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the extent of proposals to be covered as new National Highways in various States including Gujarat.

Release of funds for maintenance of Roads

3537. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under a resolution passed by Parliament in May, 1988, 5 per cent of the basic price out of the Customs and Excise duty levied on motor spirit and diesel to be set apart and applied for the purpose of development and maintenance of road, under Central Road Funds; and

(b) if so, what amount of arrears of this road maintenance and development fund falls due to Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and by when the due share on this account is likely to be released to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since actual augmentation of Central Road Fund in accordance with Revised Resolution adopted by the Parliament in May, 1988 has not taken place so far, it is not possible to release funds on the basis of Revised Resolution. However, in the absence of actual augmentation of Central Road Fund, some schemes have been approved in various States including Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on the basis of free-balance available to them upto *31.3.92* as per *Old* Resolution. It is too early to indicate the time by which the funds will be released to States as per Revised Resolution.

Shortage of funds for maintenance of National Highways in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

3538. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have brought to Government's notice that the allocation of funds for construction, maintenance and repairs of the National Highways in the States has fallen short of requirement, leading not only to inviting public criticism but also loss due to over-consumption of motor spirit and diesel;

(b) if so, the reported shortfall on account of the original work and maintenance and repairs of National Highways in these States during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 so far; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to make good the shortfalls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH